

WE CLAIM:

1. A system for exchanging domain-specific state information with a plurality of user agents, the system comprising:

5 an intermediary computer having an interface for communicating with user agents over a network, the intermediary computer having a first process running within a dynamically assigned domain and a second process running within a statically assigned domain.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first process comprises methods for converting domain-specific state information associated with the dynamically assigned domain into a parameter and communicating the parameter to the second process.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the second process includes methods for receiving domain-specific state information associated with the dynamically assigned domain as a parameter.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein the second process includes methods for receiving domain-specific state information associated with the statically assigned domain.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the second process includes methods for combining the domain-specific state information associated with the dynamically assigned domain with the domain-specific state information associated with the statically assigned domain to develop cross-domain state information.

6. The system of claim 4 wherein the second process includes methods for storing the cross-domain state information as a cookie within the statically assigned domain in the user agent.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the statically defined domain is associated with an explicit web server.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the statically defined domain is associated with an implicit web server.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the implicit web server is implemented at the same network address as the first process.

10. The system of claim 2, wherein the methods for communicating the parameter further comprise methods for sending an HTTP redirect request to the user agent wherein the redirect request includes an identification of the statically assigned domain, the parameterized domain-specific state information, and a parameter indicating the dynamically assigned domain.

11. The system of claim 2 further comprising methods within the first processes operable to read the domain-specific state information to determine based at least in part on the domain-specific state information when to communicate the domain-specific state information to the second process.

12. A method for exchanging cookies between processes in different domains using a user agent as an intermediary, the method comprising the acts:

identifying a domain-specific cookie in a user request to a first process in a first domain;
accessing the domain-specific cookie;
converting the domain-specific cookie into a parameter;
communicating the parameter with a second process in a second domain;
updating a global cookie using the second process;
and

storing the global cookie in the user agent.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising updating the global cookie after receiving a predetermined number of requests from the user agent to the first domain.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the act of communicating the parameter comprises:

generating a redirection command specifying the second domain, the redirection command including the parameter;

transmitting the redirection command;

causing the user agent to resolve the second domain to determine a network address of a server in the second domain; and

causing the user agent to generate a redirected request to the resolved network address, the redirected request including the parameter.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the act of communicating the parameter comprises:

generating a redirection command specifying the second domain and a network address of a server in the second domain, the redirection command including the parameter;

transmitting the redirection command; and

causing the user agent to generate a redirected request to the network address specified in the redirection command, the redirection command including the parameter.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of accessing the domain-specific cookie comprises the acts:

determining a priority associated with content identified by the user request;

5 modifying a credits value based on the determined
priority; and
 modifying a request counter with each explicitly
requested data object.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of
updating the global cookie comprises the acts:

 computing a new value of the global cookie wherein
the new value is based upon a prior value of the global
5 cookie combined with the domain-specific state
information communicated in the parameter; and

 resetting the value of the domain-specific state
information; and

 communicating the reset domain-specific state
10 information as a parameter in a redirection request from
the second domain to the user agent.